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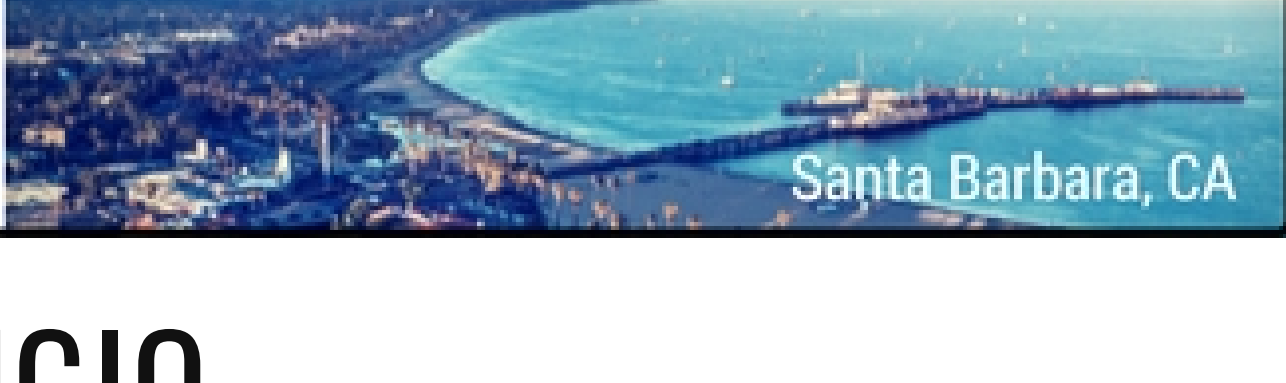


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Santa Barbara, CA

SEWAGE SMELL UP BY REFUGIO

 QUESTION & ANSWER /  JAN 17 2018 08:06 AM /  BY SYV_OAKS /  14 COMMENTS / 

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By an edhat reader

I went surfing yesterday at one of "my spots" between El Capitan & Refugio beaches around 12 noon. Up by the turnout by train tracks at Corral Beach, there is a very, very strong smell of sewage. I talked to some of the other surfers nearby and we were trying to figure out where the smell is coming from. Somebody said that Cal Trans (or whoever) might be dumping Montecito mud from the 101 up there. The mud might be mixed with sewage from homes where the septic tank overflowed. Is there any way to confirm who is dumping what up there by Refugio, and to confirm if it is contaminated with sewage? I am very concerned about this as a citizen, and a surfer. I hope people are not surfing close to where they are dumping dirty, smelly, possibly contaminated mud. I know they are dumping mud at Goleta Beach, and possibly just north of Winchester Canyon area, but by Refugio now too?

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14 COMMENTS

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GENERALTREE   

JAN 17, 2018 11:27 AM

It is natural seepage.

MESARATS   

JAN 17, 2018 10:26 AM

Rincon is no longer on septic tanks thanks to Hillary Houser and HTO
http://docs.healthocean.org/Special_Edition_Newsletter_-_The_Rincon_Project/

SBPAUL   

JAN 17, 2018 09:28 AM

There was a fairly strong upcoast current yesterday. As a surfer I am sure you check current and swell before you hop in the water. If you look at the current maps from yesterday it was basically pulling in from the center of the channel directly into Refugio. You can also see that we are in a back eddy so our channel is basically in a full rotation counter clockwise.

SBPAUL   

JAN 17, 2018 03:39 PM

Ok is the channel not rotating counter clockwise or are surfers not supposed to check water conditions before they go out? Why down votes for an objective comment. Or should I just say the water is clean and the muck is always getting pulled out to sea?

FLICKA   




JAN 17, 2018 09:04 AM

Most of Montecito, if not all of it, got off septic tanks many years ago. The reason Coast Village Road is in SB is because when the 1st vote in Montecito for a sewer system didn't pass CV property owners asked Santa Barbara to annex them so they could get on their sewer system, their septic tanks were in deplorable, overflowing condition. CV was a very different then, old photos seen today would look like a completely different place. They say sewer lines are not broken now.

A-1516272286   

JAN 17, 2018 09:11 AM

Here is a pdf showing how much of Montecito is on septic:
http://montsan.org/uploads/files/MSD_map1.pdf

A-1516272286   

JAN 17, 2018 09:08 AM

There are definitely a significant number of houses on septic in Montecito, especially on the eastern/northern ends.

OCEANDREW   


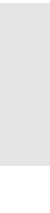
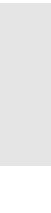
JAN 17, 2018 09:03 AM

As a surfer you should know that every heavy rain episode will result in elevated coliform bacteria as well as muddy coastal waters for days. The increased bacterial count happens predominantly around areas where the creeks are fed from watersheds that have many houses with septic systems. And given that gully washers only happen sporadically when they do they can badly scour leech fields or flood the holding tanks where the solids are being broken down. Rule of thumb is to stay out of the water for a couple of weeks after a good gully washer if you're concerned about your health.

OCEANDREW   


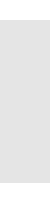
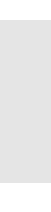
JAN 17, 2018 09:11 AM

BTW... the coastal ocean current runs down the coast not up it. So your sewer smell could well have been hydrocarbons from all the oil extraction activities that are apparently on hold while the pipeline is closed down and anyone who tells you pipelines and oil wells don't leak is selling you a bill of goods.

A-1516272286   

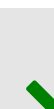
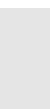
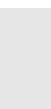
JAN 17, 2018 08:51 AM

I was up at Refugio on Monday when the posts were up about no swimming, but the surfers ignored it and went bombing into the water totally disregarding the signs. They must have a good reason for closing.

A-1516272286   

JAN 17, 2018 08:49 AM

Oops. Not Refugio.

A-1516272286   

JAN 17, 2018 08:49 AM

I think all the houses at Rincon are on septic.

TAGDES   

JAN 17, 2018 08:33 AM

Did you look at the freeway. If they are hauling up there you would be able to see it on the freeway and whichever off ramps they use. Also at the meeting last night they said there was little to no damage to the sewer system or pump stations and doubt any septic tanks are down where they would have overflowed.

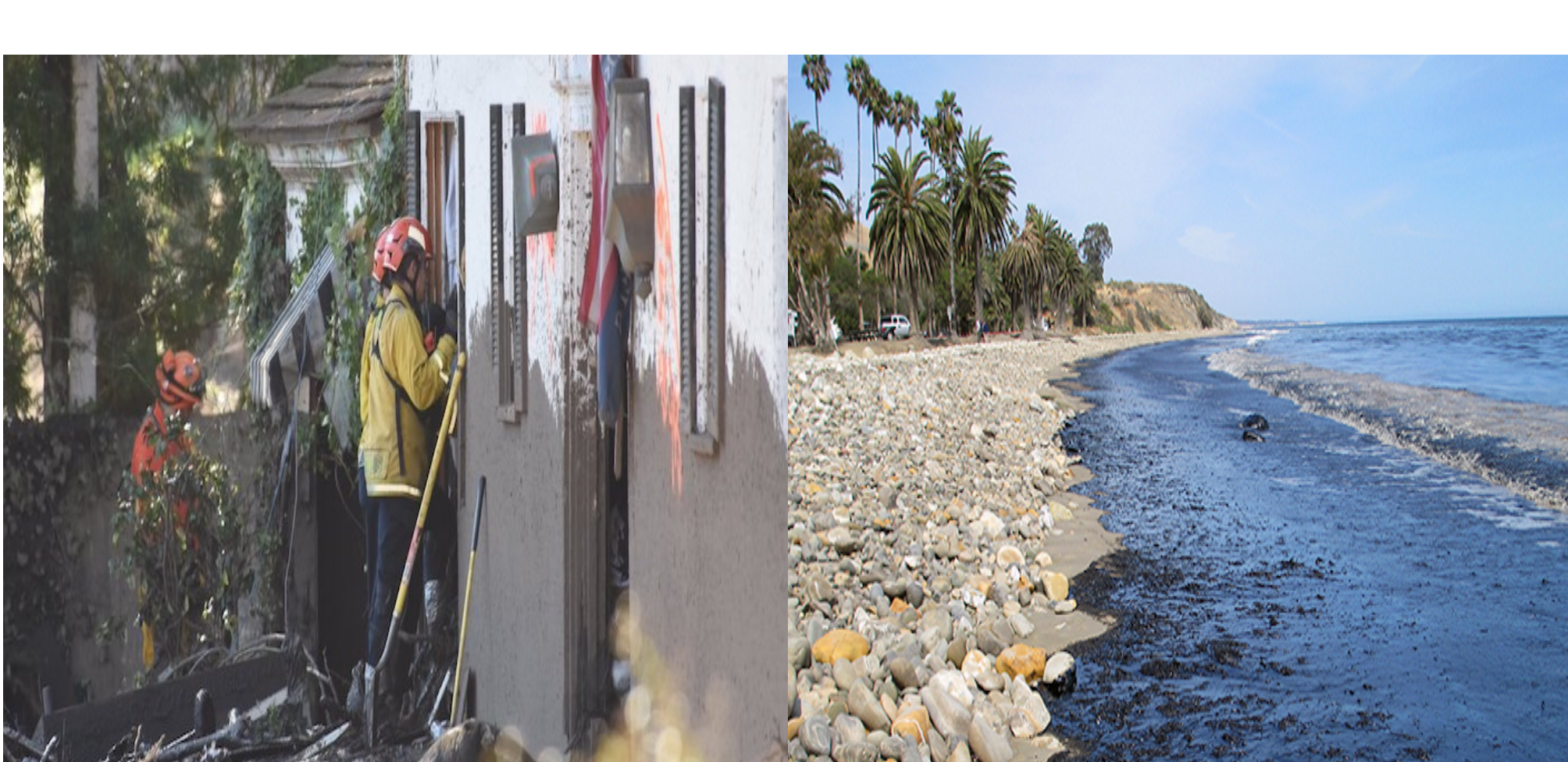
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JAN 17, 2018 08:25 AM

Any sewage was washed out to the beach in front of the biltmore. Maybe it's a homeless encampment.


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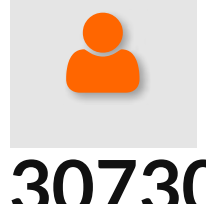
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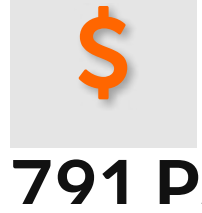
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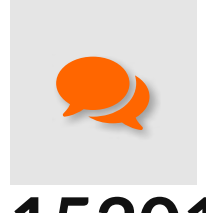
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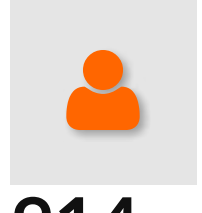
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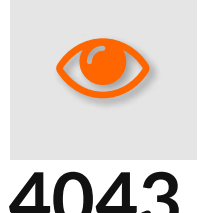
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